

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 12370 031443Z

42

ACTION VO-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-01 SCA-01

INSE-00 SAJ-01 L-03 H-02 SS-15 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

USIA-06 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /083 W

----- 112154

R 031256Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

SECSTATE WASHDC 6517

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: VHIP, UR, SREF

SUBJECT: ARMENIAN REFUGEES

REF: MOSCOW 13970

1. FOLLOWING BACKGROUND ON ARMENIAN REFUGEE APPLICANTS IN LEB-
ANON FOR INFO EMBASSY MOSCOW: 203(A)(7) APPLICANTS IN BEIRUT
ARE BEING PROCESSED BY ORDER INTTIAL REGISTRATION DATE WITH LOCAL
VOLAGS. INS OFFICERS VISIT LEBANON PERIDDICALLY FOR INTERVIEWS.
CONSIDERABLE BACKLOG OF APPLICANTS HAS DEVELOPED. PROCESS-
ING TIME FOR NEW CASES LIKELY TO BE WELL OVER ONE YEAR.

2. ARMENIAN APPLICANTS ARE AWARE PROCESSING DELAYS AT
BEIRUT. USMISSION GENEVA HAS NOTED CONTINUING INCREASE NUM-
BER APPLICANTS USING ROME INSTEAD OF BEIRUT FOR PROCESSING.
WE UNDERSTAND SOME REACH ROME DIRECTLY FROM SOVIET ARMENIA,
BUT MOST TRANSIT BEIRUT OR PROCEED TROME AFTER APPLYING
INITIALLY IN BEIRUT.

3. FOR DEPT: EMBASSY HAD NOT BEEN AWARE RESTRICTIVE LEBANESE
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VISA POLICY REGARDING SOVIET ARMENIAN APPLICANTS PRIOR

RECEIPT REFTEL. CONTACT IN LOCAL ARMENIAN COMMUNITY HAS
INFORMED US THAT HE HAS HEARD LEBANESE EMBASSY MOSCOW HAS REPORTEDLY
BEEN REFUSING VISA APPLICATIONS FOR PAST SEVERAL WEEKS ON
GROUND THAT CONSUL IS "ON VACATION."

4. IF INDEED RESTRICTIVE POLICY IS BASED ON GOVERNMENT
DECISION, EMBASSY DOUBTS THAT IN VIEW CURRENT AGGRAVATED
CRISIS SITUATION IN LEBANON, HOPES FOR RAPID RECONSIDER-
ATION OF POLICY WOULD BE PRACTICAL.

5. FOREIGN MINISTRY IS IN INSECURE PART OF BEIRUT AND HAS BEEN
VIRTUALLY NONFUNCTIONAL LAST TWO WEEKS. WILL RAISE MATTER ASAP.
GODLEY

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 03 OCT 1975
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Document Unique ID: 00
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